

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day? – William Shakespeare**

- Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
- (5) Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
- (10) Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,  
Nor shall Death brag though wand'ring in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long live this, and this gives life to thee.

1. In the right margin, write your first thoughts about the poem.
2. In Shakespeare's day, poets often made extravagant claims about the person they loved. What extravagant claim is made at the start of this poem?
3. Why does Shakespeare then say he refutes the claim?
4. What image does Shakespeare use to demonstrate that summer weather is unpredictable?
5. What is the "eye of heaven," and why is it not constant or trustworthy?
6. According to lines 7-8, what might happen to any kind of beauty?
7. In the third quatrain (lines 9-12), the speaker makes a daring statement to his lover. What does he claim will never happen?
8. Quote the line containing an example of personification.
9. The narrator opened the sonnet with a question about whether or not he might find an appropriate simile or metaphor to describe the person he loves. How has he answered that questions?
10. What does the final couplet mean and what does "this" refer to?
11. What is the overall tone of the poem?

### **Sonnet 130 – William Shakespeare**

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in her breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;  
I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare.

12. In the right margin, write your first thoughts about this poem.
13. Sonnet 130 is in the same format as the love sonnet so common for that day. How is this poem different?
14. The description of the narrator's love is much different from the "Shall I Compare Thee. . ."  
How are the descriptions different? What is the narrator saying about his love in this poem?
15. What is the overall tone of this poem? How can you tell that is the tone?
16. The diction of this poem is much harsher than that of the previous poem. Why might that be and how does that affect the poem?
17. How do you think the narrator feels about his love? Which poem do you think shows more genuine affection? Why?
18. Sonnet 130 is a parody. What is being mocked in the poem? Why do think that?
19. What was the purpose of this poem? Who do you think the audience is/was for each poem? Why? How are they similar? How are they different?